

Serial No.: 09/333,806

Attorney Docket No.: 1999P07652US

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-22 are pending. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 1-5, (6) 11, and 20 have been allowed. Claims 6 (7) -13 have been amended, and claim 21 and claim 22 have been added, to more particularly point out applicants' invention. Claim 12 and claim 19 have been amended to depend from claim 7.

A note on claim numbering: The claims as shown above correct an error in numbering and ordering that appeared in the September 2003 amendment. Specifically, as filed, claim 11 was originally claim 6, and claims 6-10 were claims 7-11. The dependency of the independent claims on claim 6 (rather than 7) has also been corrected. Claims 12 and higher were unaffected. Applicants apologize for any confusion.

Claims 6 (7)-10 and 12-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,550,968 ("Miller") in view of Pinard et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,533,110 ("Pinard"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Miller or Pinard, either singly or in combination.

Claim 6 (7) and Claim 13 have been amended to include limitations similar to those of allowed claims 1 and 20. Thus, these claims and their dependent claims are likewise believed allowable.

Claim 21 is a claim in means plus function form that is generally similar to method claim 20. Thus, this claim too is believed allowable. Claim 22 depends from claim 13 and is believed allowable for reasons set forth above.

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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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